

THE JUVENILE COURT OF YAKIMA WASHINGTON.

by

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THE JUVENILE COURT

of

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

The Juvenile Court of Yakima County has jurisdiction over a territory of five thousand fifty-nine square miles, with a population of forty-one thousand seven hundred nine, according to the census of five years ago. The city of Yakima is the county seat and has a population of about twenty thousand. There are a number of smaller towns in the county and most of the country districts are divided into small fruit ranches, the average ranch containing about ten acres. Toward the lower end of the valley there are some larger holdings in hay, potatoes or sugar beets. The entire county has been settled within the last thirty-five years. The Northern Pacific Railway brought their road through the state in 1884. Various reclamation projects were started, and what had formerly been arid, sage-brush land began to produce crops which seemed marvelous to farmers of non-irrigated states. Immigration came rapidly, the land became high in price and closely settled. Good roads were built, automobiles became common, and parts of the county which are not now served by local trains or suburban trolley service are connected by auto-stage lines. Social conditions are, therefore, about the same all over the county, and there is no such distinction between town and country life as existed in the Middle West in the early days of its settlement.

The population contains various racial elements. In addition to the Indians who are present in considerable numbers, there are Orientals, Japanese, Chinese, Hindoos, and a few Koreans. There are some adult negroes but, judging from school records, not many negro children. There are several small settlements of French, partly Canadians, some Dutch settlements, some Germans, Swedes and Russians. There have been attempts to make a survey of nationalities by means of school records but it has not been a success. The native Americans themselves, who form the large majority of the population, are from every section of the United States, and as in any new country which is settled in the hope of commercial gain, they represent the eager, restless, aggressive type. The majority of those families who have taken up horticulture or agriculture have gone through a few years of strict economy and self-denial until their projects had time to mature, and then with rather unsettling suddenness have found themselves better off than ever before. The frequent result is a very free spending of money, particularly on things which make an outward show, new cars, expensive clothes of the latest cut. There is a constant struggle for leadership in the society which has not yet reached a stable equilibrium. Where so many of the population are still new-comers, there is no way for one to judge another except by the appearance he makes and the valuation he seems to place upon himself, so that the socially ambitious person sees nothing outside himself to limit his ambitions. The desire for social prestige is reflected in

the number of clubs. The Yakima Daily Republic for January 1, 1920, lists meetings for the month of seventeen clubs of pseudo-literary or musical nature. In addition there are the usual card clubs and clubs of purely social nature.

There seems to be a lack of family traditions and of community traditions. Many people feel free to drop in the new town the customs and observances to which they were bound in their old homes by public opinion, and by the watchful interest of friends and acquaintances. The falling away from standards is shown in poor church and Sunday School attendance, in numbers of the "best people" at Sunday movies, in unchaperoned young people out late at night or going by auto from one town to another, in a general feeling of impatience with conventions and restraints set up by old established neighborhoods for the protection of all, but especially of the young people.

The city of Yakima has seventeen Protestant churches and two Catholic churches. There are also a number of small missions and some sects of small membership meeting in hired halls. The Y. M. C. A. own their own building and have a good gymnasium and swimming pool. The Y. W. C. A. has rented quarters with a small gymnasium which the school board rents part of the time for the use of High School girls, who, according to a recent law (Session 1919) must have a certain amount of physical training which the schools are not equipped to give. Except for the work of the churches, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and the schools, there is no public effort for wholesome

recreation for the young. Yakima does not have within her limits or near her borders, a single park, though there is to be a special election held in February to decide whether the city will vote bonds for the purchase of park sites. At the same time there are three theaters in the town, and two more large houses being built. The present theaters are all moving picture and vaudeville houses, at one of which there is an occasional example of legitimate drama. All these houses are open day and night, seven days a week, and they are all doing a flourishing business. They are all under the management of the same man, a Jew, who is not qualified to judge, even if he were actuated by civic motives, of what is suitable for his audiences, which are made up largely of children and young people. There appears to be no effort on the part of parents to know beforehand or to exercise any judgment as to what their children are to see. It is all lumped together as "the movies", and young children and adolescents see continually the most suggestive and flagrant sex interest plays as well as thrillers depicting criminal life. Public dances attract many young people also.

Men and women who are seriously concerned over the juvenile problem complain that there is no home life. In families of little means the cost of living has forced mothers into industry with the resulting effect of diminished family life. In families of moderate or abundant means there seems no harmony of interests. Members of the family seek each his own variety of entertainment, according to age or individual taste, and most of

this entertainment is secured outside the home. There is little inclination to cultivate the quiet pleasures of music or reading in the family circle. In an address before the Child Welfare Conference of the Northwest, held in Yakima October 10-12, 1919, Dr. George A. Sheafe, state superintendent of the Washington Children's Home Society, stated that "the home is largely responsible for the alarming increase in delinquency. Instead of being interested in the home, mothers are more and more inclined to seek a place in the outside world in business or in industry. Men and fathers are restless and dissatisfied, with the result that family life is being disrupted and children are thrown more and more on their own resources and into the companionship of undesirable persons outside the family."

The family itself tends toward less stability. During 1919 there were six hundred seventeen marriage licenses issued in Yakima County and two hundred fifty-eight divorce cases filed, an average of one divorce to each two and four-tenths marriages. In the previous year there were four hundred seventy-seven marriage licenses issued and one hundred thirty divorces granted, or one divorce for each three and six-tenths marriages.

The Yakima Daily Republic for June 20, 1919, states: "During the last three months no less than seventeen couples in which one or both the contracting parties were under legal age, have been licensed to wed. Yakima generally boasts that

it is a highly civilized community and is given at its missionary meetings to expressing its disapprobation at the youthful age for marrying in the far East. Since March 20, 1919, there have been four fifteen year old girls who have been given licenses to wed, and five girls of but sixteen. Of the five youthful brides, but one is an Oriental. In 1918 there was considerable comment because two girls of sixteen were married in a corresponding period of time. The fifteen year bride is exclusively a 1919 model, as is the sixteen year bridegroom." There follows the list of names of parties to these seventeen marriages, with age of each bride and groom. A number of these young people had been before the juvenile court. The fact that such a number of people are married at such an early age is at the same time evidence of little or no proper home influence and an indication of trouble to be expected in the future from some of these same people and from the children born to such immature and ignorant parents.

Civic conditions in the town have not been such as to be conducive to high ideals of conduct on the part of the young people. The city government has been notorious for the past two years. The town has had the reputation of being wide open to gamblers, boot-leggers, and prostitutes. The mayor himself has been implicated in these various evil conditions until finally, after weeks of disgusted protestations on the part of decent citizens, a Good Government League was formed, detectives

hired, and proof compiled of the accusations against the mayor and chief of police. A recall petition was then started, but the frightened mayor compromised with the League by dismissing his chief of police and promising that for the remainder of his term the police should be under the control of a man approved by the Good Government League. Since the mayor's term would soon expire anyway, the League decided to accept this compromise rather than cause the city the heavy expense of recall proceedings.

The assistant probation officer stated it as her opinion that much evil is wrought among the young people by the example set by the group of fast young married people who pose as the leaders in society in a new town, and who keep themselves and their affinities constantly before the public eye.

A trained social worker who was for some years with Mrs. Martha P. Falconer of the Girls' House of Refuge, Philadelphia, believes that there are decidedly evil results from the housing of families in such small houses as are the rule in Yakima, even among fairly well-to-do people. The bungalow type of house is commonly used. Rooms are usually small, there are not enough of them, and there is a general lack of privacy. In many families there seems to be no great objection felt to brothers and sisters sleeping together long after the age of infancy is passed.

The opportunity for boys and girls to earn money is great and there is no loss of social prestige connected with work.

In the earlier history of most of those settling on high-priced land it has been necessary for all the members of the family to do as much as they were able, and in the intensive operations which are carried on, there remains the opportunity when the necessity has disappeared. Moreover, much of the work in commercial fruit raising is seasonal and while some transient labor is present in the harvesting season, much is done by girls and boys who are able to earn good wages. Many High School girls who pack apples or peaches are able to earn five dollars a day. Some of the more skilful exceed this wage, while some as young as thirteen years average four dollars a day over a period of several weeks. A survey of High School pupils made just after the opening of school in September, 1919, reveals the fact that the four hundred twenty-five pupils who answered the questionnaire had earned during the summer vacation the sum of fifty thousand, nine hundred thirty-five dollars. Arranged on a per capita basis the figures stand as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Earned per capita</u>
Senior	\$8,808	\$5,593	\$146
Junior	11,499	7,067	159
Sophomore	11,408	6,735	134
Freshman	19,220	12,008	96

The boys made about seventy-five per cent of the money earned, though the girls spent as much as the boys. Most of the money was earned in fruit and ranch work, but there were some who worked in stores or garages. Many reported that they had

worked at home and received no pay. The largest amount earned by one pupil was one thousand dollars earned by a boy who had worked in the fruit and harvesting and who had also raised some hogs. Some of the pupils who live on ranches are carrying on individual projects of their own, pigs, chickens, truck patches in the spring, and similar enterprises. Some pupils living in town work in stores and warehouses after school and on Saturdays. Much of the money thus earned is spent very freely. The boys and girls are living at home at no expense to themselves, and they and their parents consider their earnings in the nature of spending money. Much of it goes for expensive clothes. Many of the girls who pack fruit in the fall wear to school clothes which, in the more conservative East, would be considered more appropriate for women of mature years and for occasions of a distinctly social nature. Much of the money goes to the moving picture houses, and to the gratification of any whim of the moment. However much worth while the readiness to work may be, the ease with which boys and girls here may earn comparatively large sums with little or no responsibility as to its spending, bears certain evil results: spend-thrift habits; self-indulgence; poor standards of taste; a feeling that, if without special training they can satisfy their immediate wants, there is no need for tedious application to study; an exaggerated opinion of their ability and of their real importance in the scheme of industry and of the worth of their opinions, with a corresponding lack of respect for the

opinions of parents or of those in authority over them; a feeling of impatience with restraint and of superiority to discipline.

The work of the Juvenile Court was begun in 1913 under the juvenile law enacted by the State Legislature of that year.

This law is, in the main, similar to the Model Law proposed by Flexner and Baldwin in their book, Juvenile Courts and Probation. It applies to all under eighteen who are dependent or delinquent and to any persons who are responsible for their dependency or delinquency. The law states very specifically under what conditions a child shall be considered dependent. For example: any child under eighteen is dependent who is found begging, receiving or gathering alms, whether actually begging or under the pretext of selling, or offering anything for sale; or, who is a vagrant; or, who is found wandering, and not having any home or any settled place of abode, or any proper guardianship, or any visible means of subsistence; or whose home by reason of neglect, cruelty or depravity of its parents, or either of them, or of its guardian, or on the part of the person in whose custody or care it may be, or for any other reason, is an unfit place for such child; or, who frequents the company of reputed criminals, vagrants, or prostitutes; or, who is found living or being in any house of prostitution or assignation; or, who habitually visits any billiard-room or pool-room, or any saloon; or, who is incorrigible; or,who is in danger of being brought up to lead an idle, dissolute or immoral life; or who is an habitual truant; or who uses intoxicating liquor as a

beverage, or who uses tobacco in any form; or who uses opium cocaine, morphine, or other similar drug without the direction of a competent physician.

The words "delinquent child" shall include any child under the age of eighteen years who violates any law of this state, or any ordinance of any town, city, and county of this state defining crime; or who habitually uses vile, obscene, vulgar, profane or indecent language, or is guilty of immoral conduct; or who is found in or about railroad yards or tracks; or who jumps on or off trains or cars; or who enters a car or engine, without lawful authority."

Flexner and Baldwin (Juvenile Courts and Probation, introduction IX.) give the following as the essential requirements of a court organized on sound principles:

- (1) Proceedings must not be criminal, as under the criminal law, but civil, as found in the chancery or equity practice.
- (2) The court must be presided over by a judge with a sufficiently long term of office to become thoroughly familiar with the work.
- (3) When children are detained it must not be in a jail, but in an entirely separate place of detention. The court system must protect and educate the children with whom the court deals.
- (4) There must be a sufficient number of protection officers, paid out of the public treasury, appointed on merit and because of peculiar qualifications for the work. A limited number of volunteer probation officers may be utilized, assuming as a

matter of course that their work is supervised by paid officers and that they are held to a strict accountability for their probationers.

(5) The probation office must be conducted in a business-like manner so as to insure efficient treatment of each individual case.

(6) Such records of the work must be kept as will enable the court and the public to estimate fairly the value of the court's work in the community.

Comparing the Juvenile Court of Yakima County with this standard, we find:

(1) The state law provides that proceedings shall not be criminal.

(2) The judge's tenure of office is four years.

(3) The state law provides that juveniles shall not be placed in jail. The detention home in Yakima was formerly a private home. It can house fairly comfortably as many children as are likely to be there at any one time. It is in charge of an efficient and intelligent woman who seems to have a genuine interest in her work. Some adjacent property holders have objected to the proximity of the detention home and it is the intention of the County Commissioners to build a house on the outskirts of the town when the lease on the present home expires. Twenty thousand dollars have been appropriated for that purpose.

(4) Yakima County has one trained probation officer, a man; one trained assistant, a woman who takes charge of girls' cases; a clerk. There are in the town a few women who have had training

in social service in Eastern cities who volunteer such help as they have time to give.

(5) The probation office is handled in an efficient manner.

The work is systematically planned and the officers pay close attention to their work.

(6) A card index system is used for recording facts concerning each child who has been before the court. The card sets forth the name and address of the child, date of his birth, names of his parents, date of each appearance before the court, docket number of the case, complaint, and disposition of the case. Reports of the probation officers, both before the hearing and during probation, are on file. All cases are recorded by number in the Juvenile Docket. Below is given a sample record from the Docket:

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON

In and for Yakima County

JUVENILE DOCKET

No. 93

Delinquency

In re Welfare of

Date

May 6, 1918	Filed Petition
May 6, 1918	Enter Order for Issuance of Summons
May 6, 1918	Filed Notice and Summons, Hearing May 8, 1918
May 8, 1918	Hearing Held
May 9, 1918	Return of Service Filed

May 13, 1918 Order entered, placing minor on probation, in custody of his parents.

A petition of delinquency may be filed with the court by any responsible person (see accompanying blank). An investigation is then made by the probation officer. A date is set for the hearing by the judge and notices and summons served on parents. If the whereabouts of the parents is not known, the summons is published. Hearings are private, only the judge, probation officer, child, and his parents or guardian being present. Before the hearing a full type-written report of the probation officer's findings is given to the judge. A similar report is sent with each child committed to the State Training Schools, although the Superintendent of the Girls' Training School says that she does not read these reports as she prefers each girl to feel when she reaches the institution that she will be judged there absolutely by her conduct and not by her past history.

The Court has no expert to prepare statistics from the records kept, and the probation officers are too busy with their regular work to attempt much in that line, but the following tables will show the number of cases handled in 1919, the nature of the complaints, and the disposition on the cases:

Delinquent Boys 133

Delinquent Girls 45

Offences which brought children to Court:

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Assault	3	
Stealing	54	
Forgery	1	1
Vagrancy including run-aways . . .	15	1
Sex delinquency	7	30
Incorrigibility	27	11
Violations of ordinances	9	
Disorderliness	<u>17</u>	<u>2</u>
	133	45

Disposition made of cases

Parents and children advised	84
Probationary supervision	55
State Training School (boys)	6
State School for Girls	7
State Custodial School	3
House of Good Shepherd	6
Turned over to other Courts	5
Transferred to criminal department	2
Absconded	8
Enlisted in U- S. Marines	1
Enlisted in U. S. Army	1

The following cases, which have come before the Juvenile Court of Yakima County recently, will serve as examples of the offences dealt with, the environment and character of the offenders, and the methods and results of treatment.

In May, 1918, Walter S. was brought before the Court on a charge of stealing an auto, taking a long ride and then abandoning the car. It developed that Walter, in company with two other boys, had on three different occasions taken cars which did not belong to them, driven to neighboring towns and back, and then left the cars on the outskirts of Yakima. Walter was fifteen years old and living at home. His father is a real estate dealer and also has a ranch a few miles from town. A grandfather and uncle were interested in the boy and the family were anxious to have him privileged to remain with his relatives. Investigation at school disclosed the fact that Walter was backward in his studies, and the Judge decided that he was probably over-influenced by the older boys. He therefore adjudged him a delinquent child and placed him under the care of his parents until the age of twenty-one, or until otherwise disposed of, with the understanding that all his vacations were to be spent in the country. During the next twenty-two months the probation

officer had numerous talks with him. His parents separated and Walter remained with his mother. He had great difficulty with his school work but the Court received no complaint of his conduct. Then once more he was brought to the attention of the Court. A group of fourteen boys and girls, ten of them from families of the greatest wealth, social prominence, and political importance in the town, had formed what they called the Stove-pipe Alley Gang, and during the two years they had been operating they had stolen a large quantity of automobile tools and accessories, most of which they had hidden, not daring to sell it. Altho most of the Gang were seventh and eighth grade pupils and the others Freshmen in High School. they had been permitted to run around together after dark, going to picture shows or roaming about, ringing door bells and seeking whatever diversion they might find. It was the custom for one or two members of the gang to separate from the others, run around the block and reappear later with a wrench, an auto lamp, or some other tool or accessory. When the youngsters were examined separately, the testimony of all agreed in regard to Walter. Altho he had sometimes gone with them, he had never taken anything himself. He was not only the only one who had not taken anything, but he had repeatedly urged the others to give up the practice. The Court feels that the influence of the probation officer over Walter must have been strong in order to prevail over that of his companions.

Clarence A. first came before the Court June 20, 1918.

Clarence was born September 13, 1904, in North Dakota, of Swedish parents. At the age of five he came with his parents to Washington, where they settled on a ranch several miles from Yakima.

One year later the mother died, and for the next four years the boy and his father lived together on their ranch without any woman to care for the home and give the little boy the affection and care he needed. Then the father married and brought a step-mother into the home.

On May 5, 1918, Clarence started for Sunday school at Selah, a country town four miles from Yakima. Shortly after he left home he met Allen Y. and the boys fell to discussing the advisability of remaining away from Sunday school. During the conversation Allen suggested that they enter some of the neighbors' houses. Clarence consented and they entered the home of Mr. H., the family being away. Here Allen found a little money and gave Clarence thirty-nine cents. From this home the boys went to the home of Mr. M.; where the family was also absent. Clarence says the back door was partly open and he obtained some shot gun shells, which was all he obtained from that house. They then entered a third house, which was also unlocked. Here Clarence took a revolver and a box of shells. Finally they entered a fourth house where they found some money, of which Clarence took two dollars and five cents. The case was brought to the attention of the Court through the Superintendent of the Selah Schools who had been unearthing some facts in regard to various boys who had been causing considerable trouble in the community. Clarence had already acknowledged to the Superintendent of Schools all

that he had done before he was brought to the attention of the Court. After his acknowledgment he seemed to take what he had done very seriously and he had gone to each home which he had entered and confessed to them, returned what he had taken, and offered to pay for any damage he and Allen had done. Three men, neighbors of the family, came to Yakima and offered to be present at the hearing and say a good word for the boy. They told the probation officer that they had lived neighbors to this family for a number of years and had never known Clarence to be in any trouble before. They all felt that he had made a good showing in the past, considering his home environment. His father and step-mother were both religiously inclined and attended the Swedish Church in Selah. But the step-mother had never shown any affection or attention to the boy and he was treated rather as an outsider in his own home. His school record had been good up to that year, his grades ranging from 80 to 95. He was in the eighth grade and expected to graduate that spring, though his grades were considerably lower than in previous years. One of the men whose homes Clarence had entered called on the probation officer and said that if it were necessary for Clarence to be removed from his own home, he would like very much to receive him into his home and that he would do all he could for him. The Superintendent of Schools had acted upon the theory that wrong-doing should be attended by publicity and had taken Clarence and Allen to the various school

rooms where they were obliged to face the pupils while the Superintendent announced that by these boys' own testimony they had entered other peoples' houses and that they were burglars. His belief was that the Court should order the boys out of the community. In discussing this publicity with the probation officer Clarence said that he knew it made it very bad for every one to know what he had done, but he was willing to stay at home and prove that he could keep out of trouble. The Court placed Clarence in the custody of the probation officer, who found a place for him in a home near a town twenty miles away, where he worked and attended school. He made good there, and as his father needed him, he was allowed to return home a few months ago, and is conducting himself in a manner satisfactory to those who are interested in him.

Oscar F., thirteen years old, was brought before the Court October 29, 1919, on petition of an officer of the Selah State Bank, for raising a check which had been given him for work.

Oscar's home is in a town near the coast where his father works in a saw-mill. The mother died two years ago, leaving Oscar and a brother four years old. Oscar stated that there had been seven children of whom five were deceased. The father wrote that Oscar ran away and also got into bad company, and gave as the reason that he could not find a suitable woman to take charge of the home. The boy said he accidentally shot himself in the leg and was out of school part of the time on that account.

It seems he was determined to stop school, get to work and earn money as the neighbor boys did, and threatened to run away if the father tried to force him to remain in school. While the father seems to realize the importance of keeping the boy in school, he consented to his leaving home in search of work, thinking he would appreciate home more and return willing to stay and go to school.

Oscar came to Selah about September 15th with two other boys from his home town, and worked in the fruit, living in a tent on the place of the man for whom they were working. Later, when the work in the peaches was over, they went to Selah and lived in a tent back of a restaurant from which they were furnished with food by the proprietor who trusted them to pay when they secured work again. Oscar also purchased a pair of shoes for three dollars, making a total of thirteen dollars ninety cents which he owed in Selah. His check was honored for three dollars sixty cents, the original amount, which paid for the shoes and left him owing nine dollars thirty cents to the restaurant proprietor, who expressed his willingness to allow the boys to return home, trusting them to send him the money later. Since Oscar had never been in serious trouble before, the Court order allowed him to return home under suspended sentence to the State Training School.

Roy W. was born September 15, 1902, at Seattle, Washington. He moved to this valley in March, 1915, and lived in East Selah.

He was one of ten children and seems to have been the one black sheep in the family. He has caused trouble ever since he was old enough to go to school. October 27, 1917, Roy ran away from home, leaving on a pony, taking with him his father's saddle and bridle. He rode the horse about twenty miles, disposed of the outfit for five dollars and went on to Seattle. He was there about three weeks when he stole two bicycles. He sold the first wheel for ten dollars, but before he could sell the other he was caught with it in his possession. He was handled by the Juvenile Court of Seattle on December 1, 1917, was sent to the Parental School, at which place he remained until May 15, 1918, when he was paroled to his parents in East Selah. He was home only a few days when he started in his old habits, telling tremendous lies, getting furiously angry, and using bad language. His father had no control over him at all and he paid little attention to his mother.

During the first cutting of alfalfa, Roy's father and Mr. V. exchanged work and Roy went with his father. After working a few days Roy applied to Mr. V. for his wages, but Mr. V. replied that he would settle with Roy's father and the father could settle with Roy. Roy flew into a passion, cursed Mr. V. and said, "You will either pay me or I will take my shot-gun and pepper you." He later told his mother that one day when he rode to town with Mr. V., if there had not been so many in the auto, he would have taken his pocket knife and cut his throat from ear to ear.

On a circus day he tried to get a little boy of East Selah to go to Yakima and steal bicycles, but the boy refused. Roy told him he was a coward, a piker, and many other names, but the boy still refused. Roy peddled lies between the neighbors, telling things which he said some of the neighbors had said about others. On June 22 1918 he came to Yakima and attempted to steal a Ford car. He told his little brother that he had the car and had started it when the owner ran out and yelled at him, and he stopped the car and ran away. He told the neighbors that on this day he was dead drunk, that he and another boy had bought six quarts of whiskey.

His parents had never been able to keep him in school. Although sixteen, he was only in the sixth grade and was considered a general truant. He was reported to the Juvenile Court of Yakima County on July 8, 1918, by his mother and Mr. V. He was placed in the detention home, from which place he escaped. He was gone several months, then returned voluntarily and gave himself up. At the request of an older brother in California, Roy was allowed to go to him, in the hope that in another environment he might take a new start. December 9, 1918, the Court was notified by the probation officer of Bakersfield, California, that the boy was in trouble there, having stolen two autos and being in the act of stealing another when caught. The Court in Bakersfield permitted him to go back to his brother on probation. The next that the Court of Yakima heard of Roy was that he had murdered a man in California, in whose car he had been riding. Roy came to Yakima

to his home, having sent his suit-case by express. He came with his mother to the office of the Court and really convinced those in the office of his innocence. He was apprehended by the police and turned over to the deputy sheriff who had followed him from California. He at first stoutly denied the crime but finally admitted it. He seemed to have no realization of what he had done and showed no feeling whatever except occasionally when talking with his mother. He was tried for murder in California, convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hanged. The case is now under appeal. It would seem that this boy was never a fit case for probation; that in spite of the fact that he came from a respectable family, he was a degenerate of a dangerous type and should have been kept where his opportunity for mischief was more limited.

Ida and Wilna N., aged seventeen and fifteen respectively, came before the Court on July 9, 1919, upon petition of Rev. J. H. Martin, agent for the Washington Children's Home Society at this place, who alleged their dependency and asked the Court to take jurisdiction. They came before the Court as a direct result of difficulty in their home between themselves and their father. During the early part of the year their father removed from Seattle to Mabton and brought with him his daughter Wilna and they kept house together until the middle of May, when they were joined by Ida who had come to her father's house from Seattle. On the evening of May 27th, following a quarrel with their father, Wilna made certain disclosures to her sister in which she accused her

father of having sexually assaulted her twice during the early part of February, while they were living alone, and in each instance after they had retired for the night in their separate rooms. Upon being informed of these conditions, Ida became greatly frightened and indignant and insisted that she and Wilna leave their father's house and never return. This was about 7:30 in the evening and when Mr. N. realized what had occurred, he endeavored to stop them and chased them all over the town in an effort to return them. The girls ran until exhausted, their object being to reach the Town Marshal and ask for his protection. They were given shelter in a home and the Marshal notified; he took them into his home and kept them two days. Since the girls had been wards of the Washington Children's Home Society since 1912, Mr. Martin, its representative was notified, and immediately brought them to Yakima and petitioned the Court in their behalf, and asked that the Court take final jurisdiction.

There is a long social history involving the N. family. The father has been married twice, six children were the issue of the first marriage, the last child being born in an insane asylum, where the mother was incarcerated. It appears that the father sloughed the entire responsibility of this family upon the public and later married the mother of Ida and Wilna; six children were the issue of this marriage also. In June, 1912, the second wife died and he immediately placed the children with the Washington Children's Home Society, through the Seattle Juvenile Court and thus evaded this responsibility as well. Two children were placed in good homes where, though not adopted, they are being splendidly

cared for and educated, and the youngest child was adopted into a good home. The eldest daughter married an army officer and Ida and Wilna were buffeted about from place to place, with their headquarters the Children's Home Society. Wilna was placed in a family in Seattle but suffered such abuse that she ran away and asked protection from the Court. The assistant probation officer of the Yakima Court, when the girls were brought before her, found Wilna a bright, vivacious girl, somewhat hoydenish in manner. The records showed that she had passed her eighth grade examinations with high credits. Physical examination showed that she had had sexual intercourse, for which the probation officers believed the father responsible, as the girl alleged. Ida seemed to have come through her unfortunate experiences with less injury and to have remained a clean, sweet girl. The father was employed in a hardware store. He had been a carpenter but appeared to have lost his original earning capacity in that line. He had borne a good reputation in Mabton and he made every effort to discredit Wilna's story, even to the besmirching of her character generally. An effort was made to obtain a monthly allowance from him toward Wilna's support in a private school, but this he flatly refused, although he promised in the first instance to assist in that way. The N. family are held in high esteem in the Eastern state from which they come, but an uncle of these girls who resides in this county and who has not seen his brother for thirty-six years, says that the father became estranged from his family many years ago because of difficulties in his early manhood. The uncle is a retired Methodist minister, well thought of in the community, and

he gave his moral support and all the assistance possible to the girls. He was unable to take them into his home permanently as his wife is an invalid. Both girls were placed on probation. The younger was at the detention home for a time. Then as there seemed no proper place for her, she was sent to the Girls' Training School. The older girl was sent to her married sister but did not get along there and left without notice. She went to another town but was found, and was finally sent also to the Training School. These girls seem to be the victims of unfortunate circumstances rather than being bad by choice or natural instinct, and it is the belief of the probation officers that under the protection and wise guidance of the Training School they have possibilities of development and future usefulness.

Helen H., seventeen years of age, was brought to the Court upon petition of Mrs. Elizabeth Shrimpton, City Protective Officer, because of sex misconduct. Helen was placed in the detention home May 1, 1919, upon complaint entered by neighbors that she was about to give birth to a child. On May 3d she was removed to St. Elizabeth's hospital, where her baby boy was born. The child was immediately given into the care of the Court, soon adopted into a good family and its parentage made known only to its foster parents. Helen was returned to the detention home and, upon her recovery, was placed in employment in a candy and light lunch establishment where she is still working with very good success at the present time. The escapade Helen was involved in occurred during the summer of 1918, when she was permitted by her mother to join a small camping party for a two weeks' vacation in the mountains. Here

she was in constant association with Richard R. without a chaperone, and he is the father of her child. At the time she was apprehended he was in California and she begged piteously that she be not compelled to marry him. She stated frankly that she thought she was desperately in love with him in the beginning but later they quarreled continuously and she would rather bear her burden alone than save her name by marrying him. Her request was granted and no effort was made to apprehend him. Since that time he has returned to the city but she has had nothing to do with him. For the purpose of shielding her from further publicity, no action has been taken.

Helen's father and mother were divorced during the fall of 1918, after having lived together under inharmonious conditions for years. There had been previous separations, followed by reconciliations, after which the parents lived together for short periods. The mother has made a hard struggle to maintain her family but evidently failed to give her daughter proper supervision, and at the time of her misfortune, denounced her bitterly and refused even to be consulted. After the baby was born, Helen's mother visited her upon numerous occasions, only to upbraid her and denounce her. For that reason the probation officer refused to allow her to see her daughter for several weeks. Later she became somewhat reconciled, but is still antagonistic and insists that others cannot succeed where she failed, and the breach between mother and daughter continues to widen. The mother has recently sold the family home and is living with a three year old daughter in a small house on the back of the lot. The father

works intermittently as a cook but his health is not good and he can do no more than maintain himself. Helen remained at the detention home until September 1, 1919, when she was removed to the Y. W. C. A., as the detention home was overcrowded at the time. During the time she was at the home the probation officer received no complaint of her conduct or demeanor. She seems to be a very superior girl, determined to make herself worthy of respect in the future in spite of her earlier mistakes. Although coming from a home of very moderate means she had been a member of a High School set which included some boys and girls from socially prominent families. These young people dropped her acquaintance completely when trouble overtook her and it has taken courage on her part to face her situation with quiet dignity in the town where she is known to many, but she has succeeded not only in satisfying her employers, but also in winning back the respect of older people who have had her under observation.

Ella K., fifteen years of age, was brought to the Court on February 2, 1920, by Mrs. Elizabeth Shrimpton, City Protective Officer, and alleged to be a sex offender. Ella's step-mother took the child who was then in custody of herself and Mr. K. to Mrs. Shrimpton and asked that she be turned over to the juvenile authorities because she was incorrigible and beyond the control of her father and step-mother and also her own mother. The child's own statement is that she has repeatedly had illicit relations with various men and that this has continued over a period of two years.

There is a most unfavorable social history surrounding this

child and her parents. The father was married and had two children when his wife died of consumption. Ella's mother was then but seventeen years of age and was placed by the Salvation Army in the K. home to nurse the sick mother and take care of the children. Upon the wife's death she continued to reside in the home for a while, then left for a period and later returned and lived with Mr. K. as his wife, and their first child was born before a marriage was consummated. It is claimed that previous to this time the mother had lived with a painter in illicit relationship. To this marriage of Ella's parents four children were born, of whom Ella is the youngest. Mr. K. claims that Ella is not his child. When Ella was two years old the parents were divorced, custody of the children being given to the mother, who was later remarried to a Mr. F. A few months later she gave birth to a boy, of whom she says Mr. F. is not the father. During 1919 the F's. were divorced, custody of the little boy being given to Mr. F. At the present time Mrs. F. is living with her former husband in two rooms in a lodging house, but claims they are not living as man and wife.

Mr. K. remarried several years ago, and he and his wife conduct a confectionery store. This marriage is apparently a congenial one and the present Mrs. K. seems far superior to Ella's mother. Ella has been sent to the Girls' Training School, but before she left she received letters from her mother in which the mother expressed the most earnest desire that she might lay hold on something better and higher in life than she or the child had ever known.

One of the most difficult cases the Court has had to deal with has been that of Dorothy L. A dependency petition was filed in behalf of Dorothy by her father January 31, 1920, alleging the child to be incorrigible and beyond the control of her parents. She was then not quite sixteen years and a Sophomore in high school. She was first brought to the Court by her mother during the early part of January, but formal action was withheld and an attempt made to adjust the family differences informally. It developed that great inharmony had reigned in the family for several years because of an antagonism between Dorothy and her father, an antagonism that amounted almost to an antipathy. The efforts at informal settlement were unsuccessful, and the parents requested the Court to take jurisdiction before the child became involved in social misconduct.

Investigation showed that Dorothy had been before the police department more or less for over a year because of her incorrigibility, her father repeatedly calling in the protective officer to assist in quelling disturbances caused by her insistence on having her own way and doing as she pleased. There appears to have been a lack of proper discipline in the home, and the girl would go with whom and where she pleased, often remaining away most of the night, and on one occasion joined a crowd of young people and attended a dance at a notorious place in an adjoining town. The other members of the party all became intoxicated but Dorothy maintains that she remained sober herself and insisted on their bringing her home early. Physical examination was proof that she had not engaged in social misconduct, but her parents

were apprehensive that this would follow because of her questionable companions and late hours. She is passionately fond of dancing and would accept the attentions of any boy, no matter what his reputation might be, if it would result in securing a dance date.

The family consists of the father and mother and five children of whom Dorothy is the oldest. The parents belong to exceptionally good families in Washington, D. C., the mother having been born and reared there. About six years ago they came West and the father tied up his entire funds in a business venture. For a time the family faced a hard financial struggle and to assist in meeting expenses the mother entered public work, leaving the five little children in the home entirely unsupervised. For one entire year the mother was in Washington, D. C., working, and during the war period was employed on the Shipping Board in Seattle and this necessarily threw the burden of the home and children on Dorothy's shoulders. Dorothy tried to perform the home duties and attend school at the same time and it is undoubtedly true that her extreme nervous condition at the present time is due to the double strain placed upon her at the adolescent period when she should have been guarded and given the best of care.

Dorothy possesses an unusually bright mentality, and was an honor student during her Freshman year in High School. At the beginning of her Sophomore year she became restless and dissatisfied, showed no interest in her studies, was found in one untruth after another by the teachers, and gradually reached a point where the principal recommended her removal from the school because of her failure to conform to school rules, her constant

lying and lack of application. She finally quit of her own accord and refused to return.

The family own a good home which they purchased on the monthly payment plan. The mother was raised with servants to wait upon her and consequently is a poor housekeeper herself; the home is untidy and disorderly and it was the confusion and lack of discipline and system that Dorothy resented most. The mother is an educated cultured woman, but is a failure in the home so far as properly regulating the household is concerned; the children are permitted to go in an unkempt manner; their meals are irregular, and there seems to be no discipline. The father is a deacon in the Episcopal Church, but, according to Dorothy, uses profane language freely around the home and is unpleasant to live with.

Dorothy is peculiar in her hatred of members of her own sex. She refuses to have girl companions or to associate with women. She is engaged to marry an apparently fine young man who is employed by an advertising agency, and he visited her here on several occasions. He did his utmost to induce her to live at home harmoniously, continue her high school course, and check her violent temper. She insisted on marrying him at once and living on the road with him so she could "have a good time", as she expressed it. When told that she was to be transferred to the State School for Girls she flew into a violent rage, cursed him and called him vile names because he had not married her and prevented her going to the school.

An effort was made to place Dorothy in employment and find a good private boarding place where she would be under proper super-

vision; she refused absolutely to accept the supervision of anyone, contending that she was able to look out for herself. Two days after promising to live at home in harmony until the assistant probation officer could find a suitable position and place of residence for her, she flew into a rage at home, cursed and screamed until the neighbors heard her, and caused such a commotion in the neighborhood that her parents again called for assistance and insisted upon her being removed to the detention home and committed to the State School for Girls. During these spasms of temper the girl is apparently insane. They are, of course, followed by periods of weakness and depression. It was the desire of the Court to care for Dorothy outside an institution, if possible, but during her residence at the detention home she experienced one after another of these brain storms, always following refusal to permit her to attend a public dance or some such request, and it became evident that her welfare could not be conserved outside an institution. The Superintendent of the Training School hopes that on account of her unusual mental capacity in the changed atmosphere of order and discipline and removed from her inharmonious home, she may yet develop into a normal, useful life.

Number of children detained at Detention Home during the
year 190

The time spent by children in the detention home varied from a few hours to fourteen months. There is no intermediate between probationary supervision and state institutions. Homes have been found which were entirely unfit for children to remain in and they have, therefore, been kept at the detention home.

Where it is possible for the parents to pay, they are required to do so, and the money is paid to the County Treasurer, who, in turn, credits the Juvenile Department with the amount turned in.

The Court also has charge of Mothers' Pensions. A new law makes eligible divorced and deserted mothers. Applications have increased, adding to the work of the Court. Children of women drawing Mothers' Pensions become automatically wards of the court. Of sixty-nine fatherless children, whose mothers are drawing these pensions, only two have been in the Court for misconduct. It is likely, however, that with the eligibility of deserted and divorced mothers the amount of delinquency in families of Mothers' Pensioners will show an increase. The officers of the court have been too busy with probation work with delinquents to permit of follow-up work with the families of women drawing pensions

1919 - Pensions granted 25

Pensions applied for and refused 13

Applications pending 8

Number of mothers now drawing pensions 21

Children benefited 69

According to Flexner and Baldwin (Juvenile Courts and Probation, Introduction, p. XI.) the work with dependent children and with Mothers' Pensions ought not to be included in the work of the Juvenile Court. "No child or family should be required to come under the jurisdiction of a court merely because of the necessity of securing relief."

The probation officers and the judge, through talks given to clubs and through accounts in the papers of the work of the Court, have tried to interpret to the community the causes of juvenile delinquency and to point out some means of prevention and relief. A specific plan which the judge hopes to see carried out is that of a farm school near Yakima for boys who can not be managed at home but who are not yet bad, a sort of half-way place between home and the Boys' Training School.

A Year ago the City Commissioners appointed a woman protective officer. Among her duties is the inspection of public dances, from which she is authorized to remove any girls under eighteen. Her experience leads her to believe that many times it is better to leave the girls in the dance halls rather than to send them out on the street where they are apt to get into worse surroundings. She also visits the moving picture houses at nine o'clock and sends home or takes home children under fifteen who are not accompanied by older people. It is also her duty to send home boys and girls who are on the streets at night without legitimate excuse. She states that she has never found occasion to take up any Oriental girl or young woman,

that foreign children coming under her reproof are so few as to make a negligible percent, that the offenders are native Americans and, for the most part, of the well-to-do or fairly well-to-do class. She finds many of these young people in the restaurants late at night after dances or automobile rides. The probation officers find the same conditions in regard to the percentage of foreign children and children of the poor among delinquents. They state positively that delinquent children coming from very poor families are in the minority.

Those citizens who are trying to persuade the town to vote bonds for the purchase of park and playground sites argue that such places would furnish wholesome amusement for young people.

Besides the regular classical and scientific courses, the schools offer courses in manual training, agriculture, domestic science, art, and a commercial course. There is a special school for backward children, and for the past two winters there has been a night school which has not been well attended. During the summer there are canning clubs and garden projects under the supervision of teachers. There are inter-class and inter-school athletics. Assemblies are held frequently at the high school when one class provides a program for the remainder of the school or a speaker or musician is obtained from outside. Within the last two months two of the grade schools have purchased moving picture machines and are giving entertainments to pupils and patrons. Schools are all badly crowded at present but some additional building, including a gymnasium, is promised soon.

The attendance officer keeps close watch upon truancy.

The present librarian of the Public Library is tireless in her efforts to encourage the reading habit among children and young people. She visits the different school rooms, explains the use of the library, tells the pupils how to find the book they want, and recommends good books for different grades. During the winter there are Saturday afternoon story hours.

The churches take up the problem in the usual way by trying to get young people into the Sunday Schools and young peoples' societies.

The Y. M. C. A. is active in its work with younger boys. There are competing teams with frequent entertainments for the winning boys. The Boy Scouts have camping trips and hikes with their scout-masters. The Y. W. C. A. has organized squads of Girls Reserves in the upper grades and in the High School. The Girls' Secretary plans good times for them, a summer camping trip being most eagerly looked forward to.

It is to be hoped that all these agencies may continue to receive generous support from the community and that through them there may be raised a more healthful standard of work and play for young people. It is to be hoped, also, that the public may become better acquainted with the work of the Juvenile Court and may see that it has assistants enough to carry on the work most thoroughly.

JC-3 IM 1-19

Name of Child

Address (with date)

Supervision ended

Date of birth

Name of father

School

Name of mother

Grade

Court Order

[illegible]

Detailed Account in Diary or Journal Form of What Occurs During Probation, and Remarks—(Including conduct and surroundings of probationer; things said, done and learned by probation officer; things done by others; instructions; actions by court, etc. Entries to be made in ink.)

